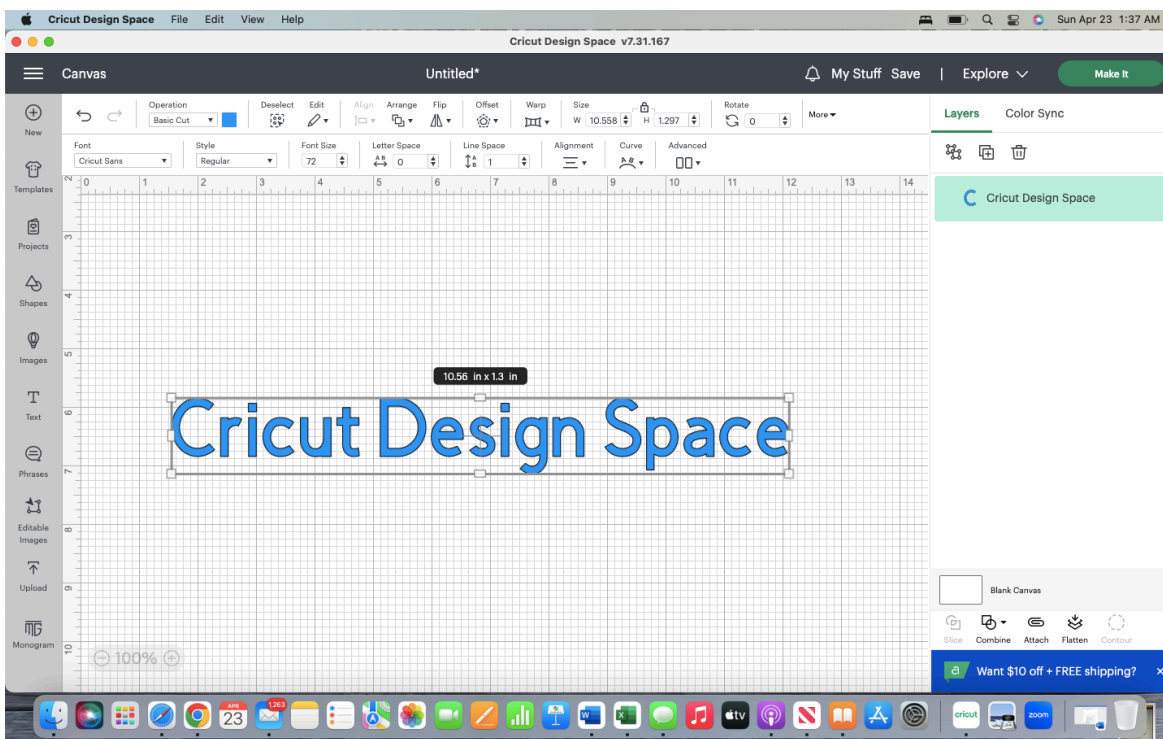


Design Space

Design space is the software used to create projects. The software is free, and you can set up a profile without owning a Cricut machine. We will be looking at the PC version. There is a similar version you can use on an iPad or smart phone. The screen or workspace is called the canvas.

There are many tutorials available online, Cricut has video tutorials as well as many other content providers – You Tube, TikTok, Pinterest. Cricut just updated Design Space in March of 2023. An excellent updated tutorial is available at [Daydream into Reality.com](https://www.daydreamintoreality.com). I have used a couple of her images. [Lemonyfizz.com](https://www.lemonyfizz.com) is also a site I have used in the past but the last time I checked she had not updated for the new update. Jennifer Maker, Crystal's Crafties and Oak& Lamb have good video tutorials on You Tube. https://www.youtube.com/live/LsBA_PmdSvA?feature=share .

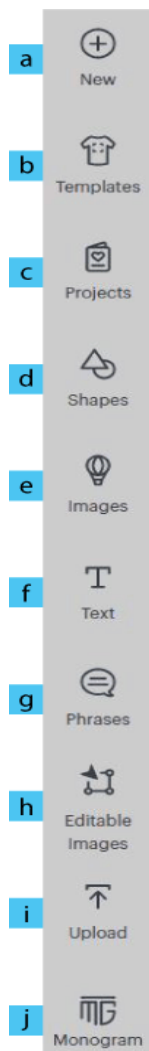
So here is the basic canvas.



There are 4 main areas

- Left Panel – Inserting Elements
- Top Panel – Editing Area
- Right Panel – Layering/Attaching
- Design Area

The Left Panel includes all of your elements to start a new projects.



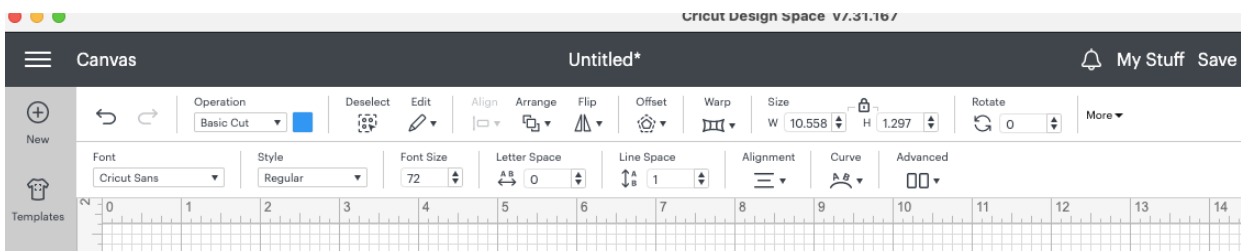
- a. **New**—Opens a new canvas
- b. **Templates** – Allows you to select the type of project you will be creating.
- c. **Projects** – Allows you to access and choose from the countless Make It Now projects Cricut offers.
- d. **Shapes** – Add various shapes to your projects. I use this quite often to add simple shapes to my projects.
- e. **Images** – Add an image to your project through this tab. Use the search bar to narrow down the choices.
- f. **Text** – Use this to enter writing to your project.
- g. **Phrases**- This will bring up all images with phrases included within the image.
- h. **Upload** – Use this tab to upload images or text.
- i. **Monogram**- A new feature that allows you to create a monogram really.

You need to remember; unless you have Cricut Access, pretty much all images, ready-to-cut projects, and Cricut fonts cost money. If you use them, you will have to pay before cutting your project.

The Top Panel in the Design Space Canvas area is for editing and arranging elements on the canvas. It is divided into 2 sub panels

Sub-panel #1 Name Your Project and Make it

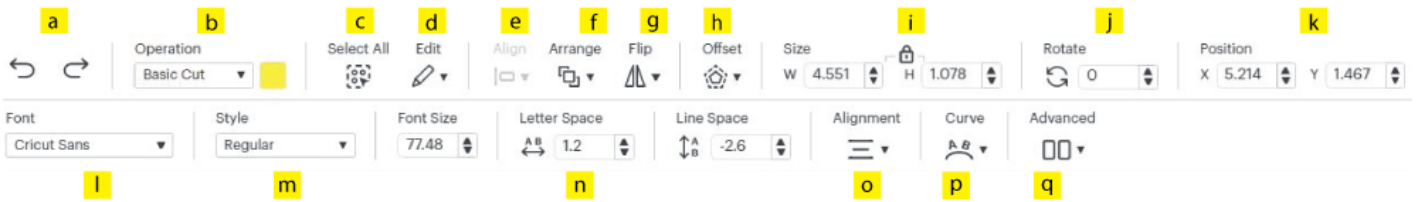
This sub-panel allows you to navigate from the canvas to your profile and projects and sends your completed projects to cut.



Sub-panel #2 Editing

The second panel is used for editing. You can choose what type of font you'd like to use, change sizes, align designs, and more.

Top Panel - Editing Menu

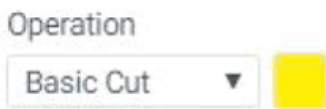


a. Undo & Redo



Click Undo when you create something you don't like or make a mistake. Click Redo when you accidentally delete something you didn't want to delete or modify.

b. Operation



This option will tell your machine what tools and blades you will use in a project. With the Cricut **Explore the options are:** basic cut, draw (pen, foil, and score), print then cut & guide.

c. Select All



When you need to move all of your elements inside the canvas area, you may struggle to select them individually. Click Select all to select all of the elements from the canvas.

d. Edit

Cut, copy, duplicate, and delete” will be activated when you select one or more elements from the canvas area. “Paste” will be enabled once you copy or cut something. Several of these actions can also be accomplished using buttons in the right panel.



- **Cut** removes an element from the canvas.
- **Copy** duplicates a layer on your computer's clipboard.
- **Paste** a copied or cut element on the canvas.
- **Duplicate** an exact copy on the canvas.
- **Delete** an element from the project.

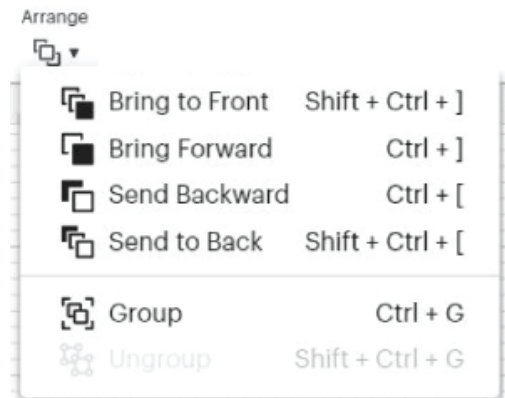
e. Offset

In Cricut Design Space, “Offset” is a tool that allows you to create a proportional outline inside and outside of text, images, and shapes. The offset tool is used when making projects like stickers, cake toppers, or any other design, for you may want to add a “stand-out” effect.

f. Align

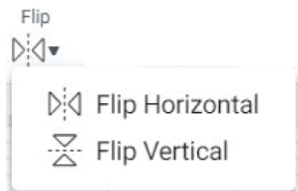
If you have previous experience with other graphic design programs, most likely, you'll know how to use this menu. This is used most often when drawing or writing text.

g. Arrange



When you work with multiple images, text, and designs, the new layers you add to the canvas will always be in front of everything. With the arrange commands, you can organize the elements very easily.

h. Flip



I use this feature when making banners and shaped cards .

i. Size



Everything you create or type in Cricut Design Space has a size. You can modify the size of an object or text (when you click on it). However, if you need an item to have an exact measurement, this option will allow you to do so.

The little lock is important. When you change the size of an image, the proportions are always locked. To change just height or width you must 'unlock' the dimensions.

j. Rotate



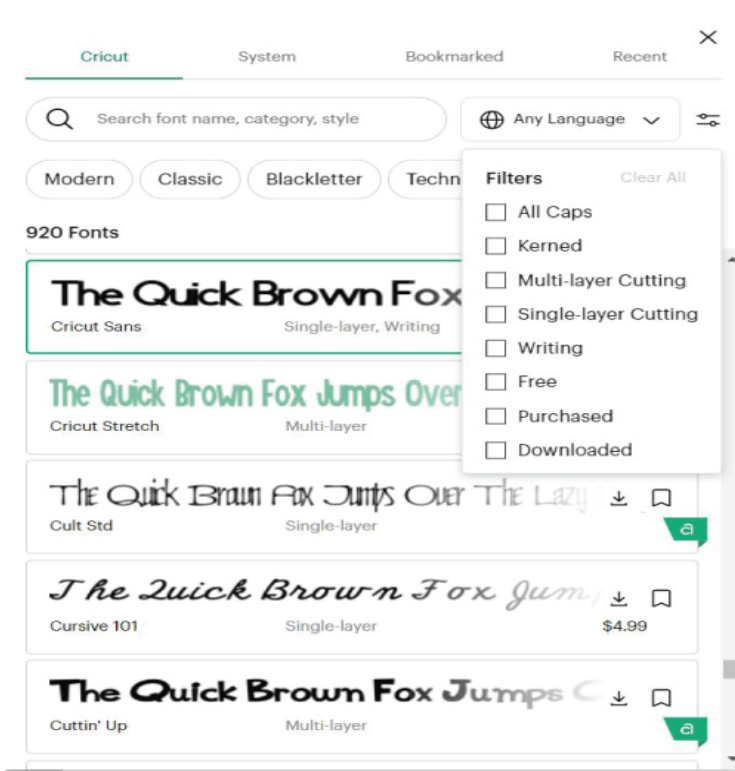
Like "Size," rotating an element is something you can do quickly from the canvas area.

k. Position

When you click on a specific layer, this box shows you where your items are on the canvas.

l. Font

When you click on this icon, you can select any font you want to use for your projects.



Cricut – the fonts in Design Space, many are only available with Cricut Access or by paying a user fee.

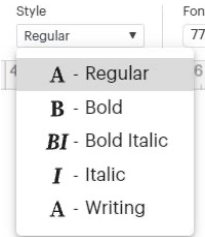
System – the fonts you have up loaded into Design Space.

Bookmarked – the fonts you have bookmarked

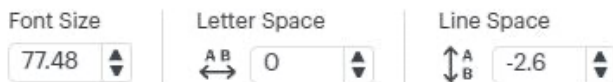
Recent – the fonts used in recent projects

Uploaded – you can upload fonts many for free from other sites. I've used

m. Style



n. Font Size, Letter & Line Space

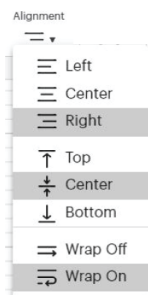


Font Size: You can change it manually from here. I usually adjust the size of my fonts from the canvas area.

Letter Space: Some fonts have a considerable gap between each letter. This option will allow you to reduce the space between letters very quickly. This is especially helpful for script fonts. Selecting kerned fonts also helps.

Line Space: this option will tackle the space between lines in a paragraph.

o. Alignment



This alignment is used for text like any word processing.

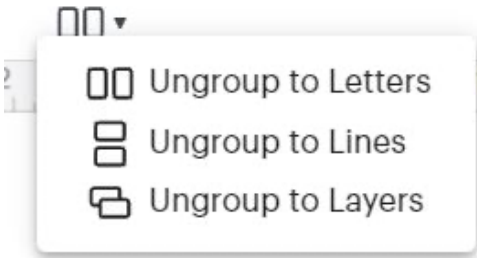
p. Curve



With this function, you can curve your text — the best way to learn it's by playing with the little slider.

q. Advance

Advanced



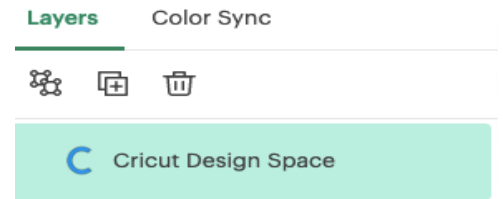
- **Ungroup to Letters:** This option will allow you to separate each letter into a single layer.

- **Ungroup to Lines:** This option is exceptional, allowing you to separate a paragraph on individual lines.

- **Ungroup to Layers:** This tool is only available for multi-layer fonts, only offered in Cricut Access or individual purchase.

The Right Panel

This area allows you to layer(group), combine, duplicate or remove objects or text on the canvas.



a. Group, Duplicate, Delete

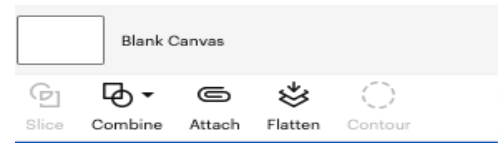
The top section allows you to group or ungroup, duplicate or delete



These settings will make your life easy when moving things around the canvas area, so play around with them.

b. Slice, Combine, Attach, Flatten, and Contour

The bottom section allows you to combine sections



These tools are essential! They can be confusing in the beginning. It often takes a lot of trial and error, but I have a separate cheat sheet for this section.